



Clockwise from left:

BRIAN SHAW chases Kansas quarterback Matt Johner in the second quarter, forcing an incomplete pass.

KENNY CHEATHAM leaps over Kansas cornerback Jason Harris for a 34-yard reception from Scott Frost in the first quarter. Ahman Green scored Nebraska's first touchdown two plays later.

BRENDAN HOLBEIN (No. 5) celebrates with Scott Frost after the duo connected for a 15-yard touchdown pass near the end of the second quarter.

Blowout frustrates KU coaches, players

Byrd says he could have done more damage against NU's secondary.

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

Saturday night was a long one for Kansas.

With the exception of a 77-yard touchdown pass, the Jayhawks had just one drive of more than 30 yards and crossed into Nebraska territory only twice.

"I looked at my watch and the game was only about three hours," Kansas Coach Glen Mason said. "I thought it was about 33 hours long."

The Nebraska defense held Kansas to 209 yards of total offense and just 21 yards on the ground.

"Nebraska has as good of a defense as I've seen," Mason said, "and I've been in college football a pretty long time. Every yard was tough. We hit one home run on them, and other than that it was an awfully long night."

The Jayhawks' long ball came with 13 minutes, 58 seconds remaining in the half when quarterback Matt Johner connected with wide receiver Isaac Byrd for a 77-yard touchdown. The play marked career longs for both players.

"I think he (Byrd) has emerged as a top-notch receiver," Mason said. "He's making plays week in and week out against top teams in the country."

Byrd, who beat freshman cornerback Ralph Brown on the scoring pass, said he should have seen more action in the loss to the Cornhuskers.

"It's tough when you lose games like this knowing you could have scored more points by doing certain things — like throw the long ball more," Byrd said. "It's frustrating to play a game knowing you're open."

Johner finished the game 5-of-9 passing for 94 yards and was replaced by Ben Rutz with 4:23 left in the first half.

Rutz, a 1992 Nebraska recruit who transferred to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College and moved to Kansas in 1995, finished the game 9 of 18 for 94 yards, with no touchdowns and two interceptions.

"I thought Ben did a good job," Mason said. "He did some nice things but he made a few mistakes."

However, Byrd said, Rutz was not in sync with the offense.

"When Ben comes in, he would basically have to guess (the receivers' routes)," Byrd said. "You don't know exactly what is going to happen. You have different timing with each guy."

Rutz said his return to Nebraska was enjoyable.

"It was neat to come back up here," Rutz said. "I was excited to get in, but it wasn't a shock to me. I wasn't nervous at all."

"This was probably the best defense we'll face all year long. They strive on pursuing the quarterbacks. Obviously they did a good job with that."

Without star tailback June Henley, who was suspended after being ticketed for suspicion of driving while intoxicated last week, the Jayhawks were forced to rely on their passing game for 90 percent of their offensive yards.

"Our running game has not been going good," Mason said. "We knew



JAY CALDERON/DN

Football Polls Associated Press Poll

Team	Record	Prev.
2. Ohio St. (4)	7-0	2
4. Arizona St. (1)	8-0	4
6. Tennessee	5-1	6
8. North Carolina	6-1	9
10. Alabama	7-1	7
12. LSU	6-1	13
14. Kansas St.	7-1	16
16. Virginia	5-2	14
18. West Virginia	7-1	12
20. Utah	7-1	21
22. Miami	5-2	25
24. Auburn	5-2	22

Coaches' Poll

Team	Record	Prev.
2. Florida St. (5)	6-0	2
4. Arizona St.	8-0	4
6. Tennessee	5-1	7
8. North Carolina	6-1	9
10. Northwestern	7-1	12
12. Kansas St.	7-1	14
14. Brigham Young	8-1	16
16. Wyoming	8-0	18
18. Virginia	5-2	13
20. Virginia Tech	5-1	21
22. Miami	5-2	23
24. Southern Miss.	7-1	

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